Nation

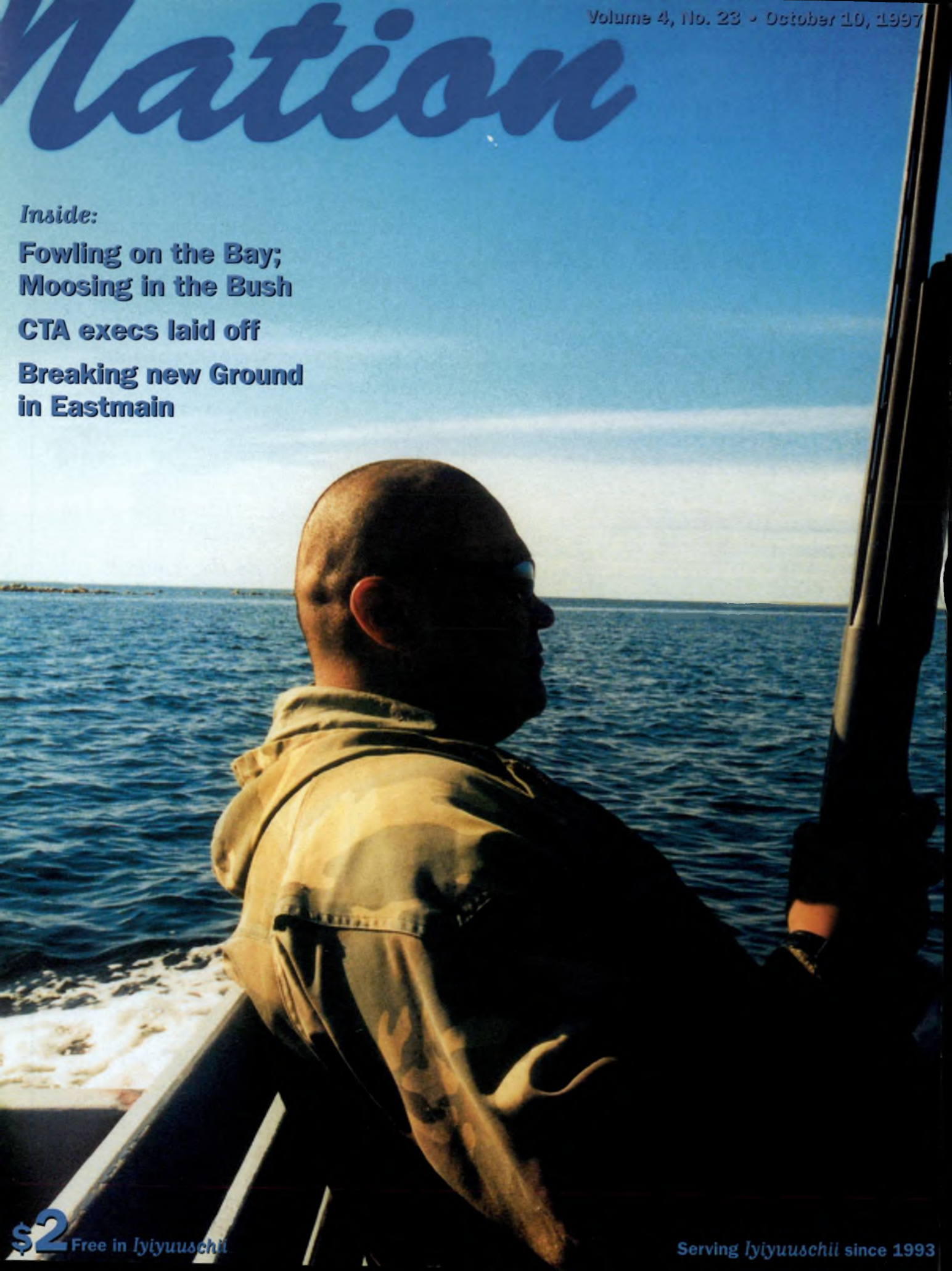
Volume 4, No. 23 • October 10, 1997

Inside:

Fowling on the Bay; Moosing in the Bush

CTA execs laid off

Breaking new Ground in Eastmain



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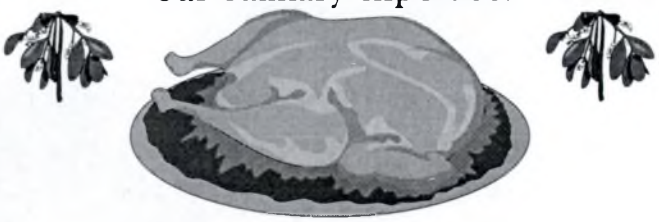

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THE PREFERENCES OF THE NORTH...

PHOTO BY WILL NICHOLLS

Thoughts on Hydro-Quebec's plans

Several thoughts have been travelling through my head on Hydro-Quebec. At the head of the pack of my mind is the new international image Hydro-Quebec is cultivating.

According to everything we've heard and know, the Evil Empire is saying that the Crees and Hydro-Quebec are experiencing a new relationship. It's great and it's good. According to GCCQ sources, Hydro-Quebec is apparently implying an acceptance of Great Whale or the Rupert's hydro-electric projects internationally and at home. Just read the non-Cree media. They are telling of the visits and meetings they have made to the north to talk and negotiate with the Cree.

Which makes it even more surprising that sources within HQ headquarters say they are as mad as hell that Chief Matthew Mukash will be making trips to the United States to fight against the revived project in Great Whale. Apparently HQ can't understand Mukash's attitude given the new relationship that HQ thinks that they have with the Crees.

Fact: the top brass of Hydra-Quebec made a trip to Chisasibi to talk about ....? Even those at the meeting weren't really sure. Straight shooting from the hip discussions it wasn't... at least from the Hydro side. It was only during the snack break when a Nation employee asked straight out what did Hydro want did the plain speech arrive. They want to do Rupert's and Great Whale, albeit in a different form than first discussed.

Given the Whapmagoustui people are openly fighting for their river and that no Cree band council (of those communities potentially affected) has come out against the proposed Rupert's hydro-electric diversion, it is no wonder that HQ is confused about Cree intentions. In the language of negotiation this could be seen as holding out the carrot while showing off the stick. So what do Crees really want? Sacrifice the Rupert's for Great Whale?

I think that we should give this most important decision to the people. Whapmagoustui Band Council said it only cost $500.00 to hold a referendum to decide whether or no to fight Hydro-Quebec. This is the cheapest form of democracy I have ever heard of so why isn't it being done?

Put the mettle to the test. It is time for every Cree to make their positions known. Hydro-Quebec has said that they will back off if a community doesn't want a project. Let's give them a yes or no.

If you think your community leaders are slow to respond to this situation, it is your right as a citizen under the Cree\Naskapi to address the problem. All you have to do is gather nine other Cree beneficiaries and petition a community special general assembly to address this or any other issue.

Whether or not Crees decide to go with the projects or not, everyone deserves a voice. Let's make the Cree image reflect reality

by Will Nicholls

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COVER PHOTO:
Glen Salt at the mouth of Seal River
Photo: Ernest Webb
Cover design: Katerina Cizek

REZ NOTES

Many things happened back home but I missed all of them.

Buuut, this is what I heard from some very valuable, highly reputable and non-criminal sources whose identities I will keep secret no matter what happens. They can drag my Cree ass through the highest court in the universe and put me on Murphy Brown and then, and only then, I might spill my journalistic guts.

Bigshots (delete S and H) from our friendly provincial hydro and forestry organizations came calling to seduce us with their plans to strip our home of its riches.

There they sat in the room looking the way hydro and forestry reps look when they come courting. With a great deal of discomfort they tell of their great plan to come in, develop the hell out of the place, give *us*, double exclamation point, a share of the profits. What they don't tell us is they'll then F-off with the rest and practically give it away to the extremely United States south of us. This is what they've been doing with results from their first phase.

They only reason they'll actually step on rez soil is when they see no other way but to buy us off. Don't trust them. Good Indians through the past five hundred year never have and never will.

They know nothing of us. They don't even know the names of our communities. Guess which village they called "Waswapiki." They even insulted the Great Chef Jean Cuisine and called him "Chef Jean Poulet" Okay, that's pretty funny, but still... They should at least take a second of their precious times to learn the proper pronunciation of Cree names. Maybe then they wouldn't insult their artists by proposing to name those 101 "islands" in the wasteland they created after them.

Anyway, at one point in the proceedings the chief called an impromptu break because nature was calling. The new boys in town were freaked out by this and it was all downhill from there. They impolitely declined an invitation to spend the night in the local hotel and promptly F-ed off to the nearest, they were heard to say, town.

Our reader's poll caused quite a stir in some communities. There's one guy who was mentioned who hasn't been able to show his face in town since the issue appeared. There was talk of a few long faces on some people. Some of them couldn't wait for the next issue to come out so people would forget about the poll. Even the CBC called to inquire about the results. There's reason to worry, we're planning a few more of those in the very near future.

Someone with money from the office went to the dep to buy a six pack and offered me one. I had trouble twisting the cap off so I utilized the Cree method, using a lighter. The drink tasted like it should but then I noticed a sharp chip of glass had broken off the top and was sitting at the bottom of the bottle. The distinct sound of chi-ching, chi-ching, chi-ching went off in my head. We debated whether we should take it to where it was purchased from or take it straight to the top. We were just down the hall when wiser heads prevailed and decided it would be too alcoholic of us to take it to the dep for a measly bottle of beer. We decided to call the manufacturer instead. I dialed their number but all I got was a computerized voice. I hung up in disgust.

I called a friend of mine for advice. Pedro had, in the early and wild seventies, found a matchbook floating around in a stub nosed bottle of 50. He took a photograph of it and sent it to the company demanding reparations. They offered to buy his negatives for a two four. "That's not enough. We want ten cases!" he demanded. He was told by their legal counsel it was too much and that was the end of that. Cheap or what!

"I still have the negatives." says my friend, who is considering changing brands.

There's a moral to that, and maybe the other, stories. Don't give in so impulsively, hold out for more and then strike.

by Ndiamon

the Nation

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CREE TRAPPERS ASS'N TOP BRASS LAID OFF

by William Nicholls

The Cree Trappers' Association board of directors laid off the CTA's president, vice-president and treasurer as of October 1 due to a lack of funds.

CTA president Edward Gilpin said it doesn't look good for the executive and that the CTA has "exhausted our begging" for money.

He says the problem is the CTA executive was funded half-and-half by the Board of Compensation and the James Bay Eeyou Board in the past and that this didn't happen this year.

The James Bay Eeyou Board didn't have as much money to give out this year and the communities had priority for getting a share of the money pie, according to Gilpin.

"Less money and more projects. Someone had to get cut. That's the consequence when you run out of money. But I'm disappointed that it's the CTA that has to pay the price," said Gilpin.

Taking a break from butchering a moose, Gillpin assured trappers in a phone interview that the local CTA offices in the communities wouldn't be affected by the cutbacks and layoffs.

Rather than blaming the James Bay Eeyou Board for the cutbacks, Gillpin puts the blame on the shoulders of the federal and Quebec governments.

The governments didn't fund the CTA and other Cree programs as was promised in various agreements and acts, like the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

"The onus was always on the Crees. Once again we subsidized government promises, for example, in community and housing projects. When we don't see the promises made in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement fulfilled, Crees have to do it themselves. This means that the CTA and other Cree organizations suffer," said Gilpin.

Some chiefs have called and expressed surprise, Gilpin said. But the CTA told the chiefs at the beginning of the fiscal year that the CTA executive would not have enough money to function for a full year.

Gilpin said he went to the Board of Compensation again in late September for more funding but hasn't had any word back as of yet. The CTA is looking for $130,000 to finish out the fiscal year, which ends March 31, 1998.

Gillpin says he doesn't know what the executive of the CTA will do but added: "We'll probably have to volunteer our services like in the beginning."

Gilpin says that this is a step backward for the CTA but the executive will volunteer because their mandate is important. The mandates cover the problems with caribou, moose and "other things that affect the daily lives of trappers," said Gilpin.

Gilpin, who has been with the CTA for 13 years, said he'll continue to work out of Eastmain for now.

A meeting will take place on October 8 with the federal and provincial governments. It will be a chance to iron out the problems for the future, said Gilpin.

"They'll be coming to the community to meet with us. They have money to travel, we don't."

NOBLE STEPS TOWARDS THE FUTURE

by Trina Slapcoff

Eastmain is pushing ahead with plans to build an arena which will house a place for the Elders to meet, the children to have a daycare and for the youth of the community to have a place to play hockey thoughout the blistery cold winter months, amongst other activities.

It is a definite need for Eastmain, which has 75 per cent of the community under the age of 35.

Chief Kenneth Gilpin has demonstrated the ethic of "where there is a will there is a way." The goverment promised to fund the building of a community centre and an arena for each Cree community. The youth in this 500-strong community remember waiting for it for 11 years.

Other hardships endured by Eastmain are that of 15 traplines of the Eastmain community, nine traplines have been affected by the hydro-electric dams. Three have been totally flooded. The community has also had to wait until 1983 to have a water and sewage system be instituted.

The chief and five other Crees took the initiative to walk 710 kilometres from Val d'Or to Eastmain last year to emphasize their wish for the government to live up to its promise. This year the anniversary of the walk was celebrated with another 10-km walk, and there were about 50 children and 10 adults who participated.

The walk lasted two short hours, and the children were laughing and playing throughout. "I hope there will be a contract to sign when we arrive in Eastmain. I hope there will be a groundbreaking ceremony today," said the chief during the walk, and there was.

The cool weather was "good for walking," although it drizzled at times, but then the clouds opened up to let the sun shine through and present the community with a rainbow at the end of the walk. "Let's do this every year," said the chief, and it looks like Eastmain will celebrate the event with an anniversary walk every

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Forget about it

Letter to *The Nation*:

To everyone who reads this *Nation*.

Forget about yesterday and the mistakes you've made... Learn from them! Do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will care for itself. Today is a brand new day... Start from there. Make each day a masterpiece!

Anonymous

Not vultures

Letter to *The Nation*:

I have an obligation on behalf of Cree Construction to write to you and set the record straight concerning the issues raised in the article on Davis Inlet.

The Cree people have the right to know what the real situation is and the way in which we have conducted our affairs.

It is also a concern that that article and the way certain facts were portrayed were an injustice to the Mushuau Innu people, Chief Katie Rich, Chief Billy Diamond, our company and its Board of Directors, and the Crees as a whole.

The Mushuau Innu people have been through very difficult and painful times. They have had to deal with the social and related problems affecting their community, negotiate with governments to attempt to obtain justice and relocate their community, heal the wounds of the past, and now take on the enormous task of implementing the Relocation Agreement itself.

Their story is of great interest and relevance to all Native people and the issues relating to their fight over time, the negotiations, and now the struggle to get back control over that Agreement from Federal officials (present, past and retired) is a story that a responsible press should address.

Instead, you have chosen to put together a tale aimed at our company, two prominent chiefs and indirectly the Cree people themselves, based on rumours, innuendo, unsubstantiated statements and a convenient disregard for the proper sequence of events to try to create a scandal which does not exist. In doing so, you are ignoring the real scandal—that relating to the federal control over the Davis Inlet Relocation Agreement.

Let me give you the accurate story in its proper sequence.

This is how Cree Construction carries on its affairs and works with its clientele.

- The Davis Inlet people carried on their negotiations for a relocation agreement through its leaders, various committee they set up and consultants. In fact, the principle advisor, Mr. Paul Wilkinson, kept us aware of events over the years as they were unfolding and was advising us as to when it would be appropriate to meet with the community.

- When there was an announcement of a federal commitment to the relocation Chief Katie Rich made the comment about "vultures" descending on the community looking for work, but that was before she had ever met us and was never meant to be directed at us. Her comment is taken completely out of context in your article.

- When the appropriate time arrived, the community invited a number of different groups and companies, including the Crees and other Native groups from Huron Village, the Mohawks, the Labrador Inuit and the Montagnais, to make

continued on page

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For more information, please contact the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources
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ALEX ROSLIN

The latest of five truck crashes near Windy Lake took place Sept. 23.

ANOTHER LOGGING TRUCK BITES THE DUST

Another quiet night at Windy Lake. Somewhere out there, a logging truck was making its way along the road. Suddenly, a distant boom was heard in the Cree camp southeast of Waswanipi.

Curious camp dwellers ventured down the road in their longjohns to see what had happened. About 200 metres down the road, just past the bridge, the truck had missed a turn, flipped onto its side and spilled its cargo of 800 logs into the ditch.

The driver was having a nervous cigarette in the cab of another logging truck that had just pulled up. He still looked stunned. He was lucky. His only injury was a cut below his right knee.

The accident, which took place 5:30 a.m. on Sept. 23, was the fifth on this stretch of logging road that goes by Isaac Dixon's camp at Windy Lake. The road is owned by forestry company Barrette-Chapais Ltd.

A sand truck once drove right off the bridge and plunged into the river 15 metres below. Another time, two children were playing in the camp close to the road when a logging truck missed a turn and drove straight into a stand of trees a few dozen metres away. In yet another incident, a truck driving too fast spilled some logs just on the other side of the camp.

A forestry worker on the scene told *The Nation* the latest accident was caused by driver error and excessive speed. The accident occurred right beside a sign that says the speed limit is 10 km/h (see photo). When this was pointed out to the worker, he said: "We never respect the speed limit."

The same story is being repeated wherever forestry takes place and logging trucks ride in Cree land.

"They're not that regulated," said Nemaska Chief George Wapachee of the trucks. "It's sort of a free-for-all for them."

Wapachee said many of the trucks are driven dangerously. Common complaints are tailgaiting, not making room for passing, going too fast. Wapachee also wondered whether the companies respect limits on the size of loads. With the lack of regulation, it's hard to tell.

Transport Quebec says forestry roads and the Route du Nord aren't public roads and not under the Highway Code. Drivers don't have to obey speed limits or other traffic violations. Police say drivers are getting away with everything but the most serious accidents, like those which involve a death. Even after an accident that leaves people injured, the driver usually gets off without even a ticket.

Speed limit.

The SQ is concerned. Two years ago they asked the government for jurisdiction over the Barrette road and Route du Nord. So far, no response.

Wapachee said Crees are looking at expanding their own police jurisdiction to cover the roads, too. But better trucking regulations would also help, he added.

Michel Deshaies, director of forestry operations at Barrette, said no police report will be filed after the latest crash. He said he didn't know the cause of the accident. He denied that the trucks go too fast.

Deshaies also denied knowledge of any other accidents near the Windy Lake camp. Barrette is the only company using this road.

by Alex Roslin

IDIOTORIAL

Quebec's most prominent newsmagazine has singled out Bill Namagoose for a bitter editorial.

Namagoose, the executive director of the Grand Council of the Crees, is called a "useful idiot," "naive" and "the mercenary of an anti-Quebec guerilla" in the unsigned editorial, which appears in the October 15 issue of L'Actualite.

Namagoose, who is mistakenly identified as "the Cree chief," is denounced because Crees expressed concerns about Quebec's decision to give new names to 101 islands in the Caniapiscau reservoir.

"What's the problem? A hundred names among the thousands (there are over 11,000 Native toponymes in Quebec)... *big deal*, as they say in modern Cree and Inuktitut.

"Chief" Bill Namagoose

"Are you saying there is no place in the middle north of the province for the languages of 99 per cent of its population?" the editorial asks.

"The North, where you live, belongs to us, like Montreal and Cap-de-la-Madeleine, where we live, belongs to you."

The editorial continues, "These islands, why didn't you name them before? They didn't exist, you respond. Of course they didn't exist: the Quebecois created them, and the lake that contains them. Who owns names, who names owns.

"Because this territory, these islands, they bought them. They, almost everyone in the world, except you. You were on the other side of the counter, you took the money. Your representatives cried victory when the courts increased the amount. And they signed the deal. Then cashed it."

DON'T BACK DOWN: PARIZEAU

Ex-premier Jacques Parizeau has also jumped into the debate over the 101 Caniapiscau islands.

Parizeau said Quebecers shouldn't be so apologize and back down when they are called racists. He pointed to the Quebec Toponymy Commission's "surprising retreat" over naming the islands, which already have Cree names.

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

"REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN"

CREE LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL CONFERENCE

DATE: November 4 - 6, 1997 • PLACE: Ouje Bougoumou, Quebec
Theme: "REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN"

The Cree School Board will host a regional conference whereby invited representatives from the Cree communities, Cree schools, Cree regional entities, and the Cree leaderships can discuss issues, share ideas, look to the future and recommend how we, as a Cree Nation can improve the use of and further develop our Cree Language and Culture.

Language of Conference: **This conference will be only in the Cree Language.**

People Invited: Cree teachers, Commissioners of Cree School Board, Chiefs, Cree Nation Youth representatives, Regional Elders Council representatives, local Language and/or Cultural Coordinators, Representatives from the Regional Entities and the Grand Chief plus School Committee members.

For more information, please contact Luke MacLeod phone: 418-923-2018 fax: 418-923-2077 (CSB)

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"We have been insulted and we are losing our faculty of indignation. We bend our back. The resignation is not well-advised," he told an audience of 500 at the Salon du livre de Quebec.

"The only danger for a people is to maintain a seige mentality," he said.

This mentality, he said, shows itself in how Quebecers back down whenever someone contradicts them.

The Toponymy Commission said it would reconsider its plan to rename the islands when *The Nation* told it Crees had already given names to the former mountains. The commission promised to consult Crees to find out which of the former mountains have names. The French names were given during the summer without any consultation with the Crees.

The sky is falling

Get ready for some freaky weather this winter. El Nino is coming.

Mud slides, flooding, droughts, fires and other calamities are going to break out all over the Earth because of the Pacific Ocean current known as El Nino, which means Christ child in Spanish.

El Nino is a huge mass of warm water that is already 1 1/2 times the size of Canada. Thought to be caused by global warming and pollution, the last time El Nino was so big in 1982-83 it caused $8 billion in economic losses around the world. About 2,000 people died from various resulting natural disasters.

This year's El Nino "could be the climatic event of the century," say weather watchers. "This one leapt out of the starting blocks," said one scientist.

The main effect in Canada and the northern U.S. will be a milder winter, about 2 degrees Celsius above the average in southern Quebec. If past trends are any indication, this could mean a colder winter in parts of the North.

Violence threat

Denouncing partitionists as warmongerers, a hardline separatist has threatened to use violence to keep an independent Quebec united.

"Death to partitionists" and "Canadians go home," were two slogans chanted during a rally by the Mouvement de Liberation Nationale du Quebec. One federalist was knocked down and roughed up when scuffles broke out between the separatist and federalist protesters.

Ed note, in the last issue of The Nation we printed the wrong ad for Mistissini's 3rd Invitational Basketball Tournament. We apologize to the Mistissini Sports and Recreation Department and anyone else involved in the tournament for any inconvenience this may have caused. Please refer to the correct ad as shown on page 16.

Quebec eyes water exports

Remember the zany idea of building a dam across the top of James Bay, filling the bay with fresh water and sending it through canals to the thirsty U.S.?

Well, now Quebec is again eyeing water exports as a way to make big bucks. The government put out a 59-page "discussion paper," saying it's time to adopt an overall strategy to ensure good management of water supplies and "the maximum profit for Quebec."

Coming in December is a conference on water management in Montreal.

Water is becoming an attractive commodity. Sales of bottled water are on the rise, and business wants to sell fresh water in bulk to countries with water shortages. The discussion paper says only 3 per cent of Quebec's annual replenishment of water is used. It also says water supplies, now run by municipalities, could be privatized.

Indian Act changes scrapped

The new Indian Affairs Minister, Jane Stewart, is scrapping proposed changes to the Indian Act that had many First Nations leaders up in arms. Stewart says she doesn't want to impose legislation on First Nations when it's clear they oppose it. Former Indian Affairs Minister Ron Irwin had proposed the changes to Parliament despite the opposition.

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year. He invites other individuals to show support for the arena by sending donations and to walk next year.

The funding thus far has been raised by the community of Eastmain. At least $100,000 was raised through bingos.

Eastmain has asked the feds and Quebec to each contribute $3.3 million to the project, but both governments have not acquiesced.

"We're a small community, but we can do it. Nothing is impossible if you believe in it," said Deputy Chief Rusty Cheezo at the groundbreaking ceremony.

"We all worked together to accomplish our dreams, and we are seeing our dreams fulfilled," said Chief Gilpin at the ceremony, which he opened with a prayer of thanks to the Creator.

This was followed with a noisy parade through the town by the champion players of the Eastmain Softball Team that won the Waswanipi Softball Tournament this year. They and the rest of the community were then had a goose meat feast.

All in all Eastmain had many reasons to celebrate aside from the momentous signing of the contract to build the arena and community centre.

Daniel and Florence Moses celebrated their 35th anniversary and Deputy Chief Rusty Cheezo celebrated his 43rd birthday.

The full day of events was concluded with fiddle music and demonstrations of the country step-dance style by the youth's dance group, many members of the community and Howard Gilpin, champion dancer and 2nd place winner of the Best Square-Dancer (Male) category in *The Nation*'s *Best of James Bay Cree Achievement Awards '97.*

Goose/Moose Break has come and gone. It is that time of year when people go out to try and stock up for the coming winter months. Sometimes it works out, sometimes it doesn't. Generally it didn't. Two intrepid reporters from the Nation went to check out the Breaks. Ernest Webb went to the coast of James Bay at Seal river just below Cape Jones. Alex Roslin went to Isaac Dixon's camp about an hour's drive south of Chibougamau.

Despite record numbers of geese reported from all over the place. There weren't that many bagged due to weather conditions and tides. As for the Moose there weren't many around but there were big flocks of geese flying high to the south.

Isaac Dixon

Looking for game

PHOTOS BY ALEX ROSLIN

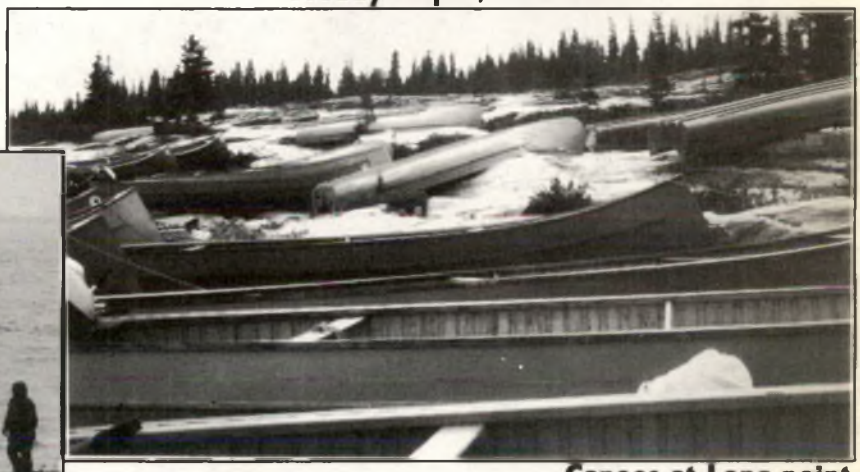
Alex with prize catch of Walleye.

Geese going South

Derek Bobbish waiting for the duck to show itself

PHOTOS BY ERNEST WEBB

Freddy Scipio, Muuwabuu



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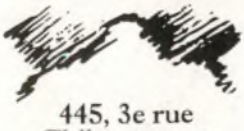

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Commission scolaire Crie

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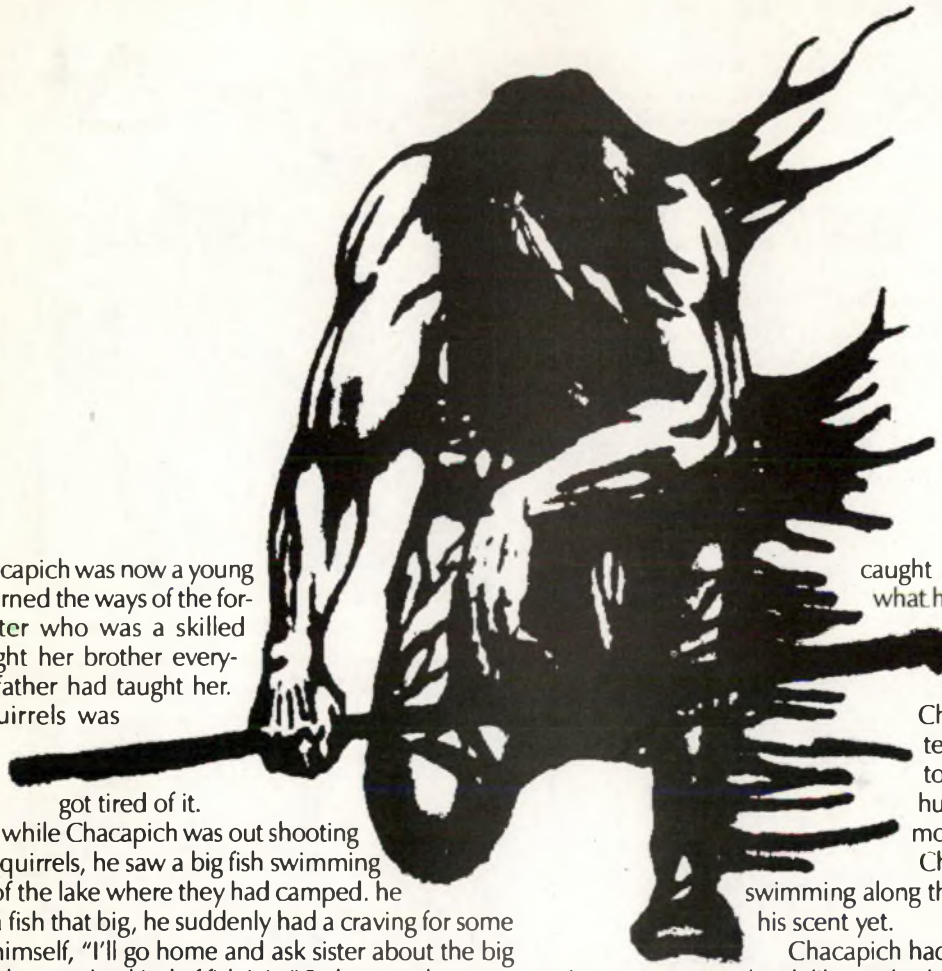
THE LEGEND OF CHACAPICH



Anonymous

Our hero Chacapich was now a young strong lad. he learned the ways of the forest from his sister who was a skilled hunter. She taught her brother everything that their father had taught her. Hunting for squirrels was Chacapich's favorite pastime, he never got tired of it.

One fine day, while Chacapich was out shooting arrows at some squirrels, he saw a big fish swimming along the shore of the lake where they had camped. he had never seen a fish that big, he suddenly had a craving for some fish. He said to himself, "I'll go home and ask sister about the big fish, she's sure to know what kind of fish it is." So he went home to ask her sister about the fish. "sister, dear, I saw a big fish swimming along the shore of the lake, it was the biggest fish I ever saw, what kind of fish is it?" His sister answered, "Chacapich, my brother, that is the fiercest man-eating fish that you saw, it swims along the shore in search of human flesh, but mostly to eat the smaller fish along the shore, it is known by the name of "Mumgooshchiksew" Chacapich repeated the name, "Mumgooshchiksew, sister why is it called by that weird name?"

His sister replied, Because it's a man-eating fish and I warn you not to go near the lake, it will go away when he has his fill of fish, but if it catches your scent it will come after you and swallow you up, so stay clear of the lake."

Chacapich answered, Please sister, say no more, you're scaring me." But of course Chacapich was not scared at all, he only said that to reassure his sister that he wouldn't go near the lake.

The next day he said to his sister, "Sister, I really have a yearning for some fish, could you please toss your hook into the lake? But use a strong piece of string and tie it to the pole near the entrance of the teepee, so that you can see the pole shake when a fish is caught in your hook." His sister did what he asked because his sister always wanted to please Chacapich, her only brother. After the string was securely tied to the pole, Chacapich went to hunt for squirrels as he did every morning.

Chacapich saw the big fish again swimming along the shore, but it hadn't caught his scent yet.

Chacapich had such a strong craving for fish that he deliberately shot one of his arrows towards the lake, the arrow landed in the water and it was too far out for Chacapich to reach, even though he used a branch to get his arrow.

Chacapich remembered his sister's warning not to go near the lake, but of course he always did the opposite of his sister's warnings. "My best arrow." said Chacapich to himself, "It was my best arrow, I have to get it back somehow." Ignoring his sister's warning he swam towards his arrow, but before he could reach it, the big fish swallowed him up and started to swim toward deeper water but Chacapich said to it, "Please Mumgooshchiksew, don't swim into deep water. I'm scared, swim along the shore for awhile, till I get used to the water." So the big fish did as Chacapich ordered. It swam along the shore of the lake. Soon it came upon the hook of sister, the fish just smelled the hook and started to swim away from it. Chacapich said, "Hey there! Mumgooshchiksew, wait, what was that? Turn around and check it out again." The man-eating fish did as it was told, it turned back and smelled the hook again, but this time Chacapich reached out and took the hook and put it inside Mumgooshchiksew's mouth, the big fish was really surprised by

Cont'd on next page

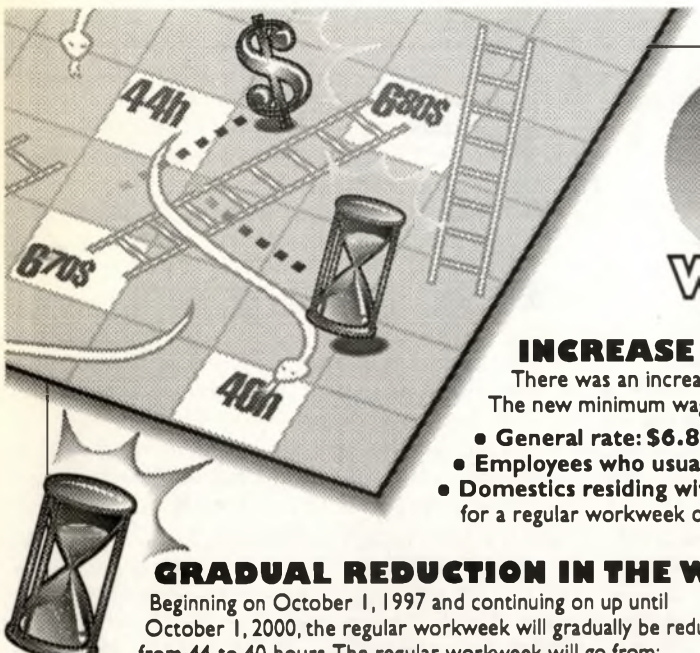
this gesture and it started to go into deep water but couldn't because the string was too strong, Back at the teepee sister saw the pole shake, she was overjoyed because she was sure there was a fish at the end of her hook. She ran down to the lake and pulled the fish in, she hit it over the head until it was dead.. Then she took the hook out and carried the fish home. She said to herself, "Won't Chacapich be happy when he gets home? he'll have fish to eat." But of course she didn't know that her little brother was inside the big fish.

Chacapich was getting worried, he went at the deep end of the fish, he was afraid sister was going to cut him when she cut open the fish. Chacapich said to himself, "sister is sure to cut me when she cuts open the fish."

As soon as sister made a small hole inside the fish, out jumped Chacapich saying, "Sister, dear, Mumgooshchiksew had swallowed me up like you said he would." His sister was really surprised that she just leaned backwards on her back. I guess she never expected that her brother would jump out of the fish. She was speechless for a long time. Chacapich said to her, "sister, don't worry, finish cutting the fish and cook it, I have a yearning for fish." This was one of the many times that Chacapich didn't do what his sister told him to do.

She warned him not to go near the lake because of the danger that lurked there in the form of a man-eating fish. Chacapich did the opposite of his sister's warning and he got swallowed up by the fish. But he usually escaped without any injury because he is our hero...

Dancer at the Montreal Pow Wow



The Commission des Normes du Travail wishes to inform you...

INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE

There was an increase in the minimum wage on October 1, 1997. The new minimum wage rates are:

- **General rate: $6.80 per hour**
- **Employees who usually receive tips: $6.05 per hour**
- **Domestics residing with their employer: $264 per week,** for a regular workweek of 49 hours.

GRADUAL REDUCTION IN THE WORKWEEK

Beginning on October 1, 1997 and continuing on up until October 1, 2000, the regular workweek will gradually be reduced from 44 to 40 hours. The regular workweek will go from:

- **44 to 43 hours on October 1, 1997;**
- **43 to 42 hours on October 1, 1998;**
- **42 to 41 hours on October 1, 1999;**
- **41 to 40 hours on October 1, 2000.**

The regular workweek, as set by the Act respecting Labour Standards, makes it possible to determine at which point an employee must be paid a 50% premium (time and a half), in addition to his regular wages, for the hours worked.

There are a few exceptions to the application of the provisions related to the duration of the regular workweek.

When in doubt, contact Customer Services at the Commission des normes du travail.

To obtain information about wages, the regular workweek or any other labour standard, contact Customer Services at the Commission des normes du travail:

Greater Montréal area: **873-7061**
Elsewhere in Québec (toll-free): **1 800 265-1414**
Internet: **http://www.cnt.gouv.qc.ca**

Gouvernement du Québec
Commission des normes du travail

Vermont's higher rates linked to Hydro-Quebec

By William Nicholls

Vermont residents probably aren't too happy with buying Hydro-Quebec power these days. Central Vermont Public Service Corp. [Corp.] has asked state regulators to increase rates 6.6% in 1998. In the past summer and winter had different rates. "Incentives" were in place to encourage using less power in the winters.

Hydro-Quebec's cost increases accounted for $14.3 million of the total 15.4 millions in new revenues for the Corp. Tree trimming would account for most of the remainder, to keep electrical lines free from danger.

Bill Namagoose, executive director of the Grand Council of the Crees told the nation how he felt about the Vermont situation. He said "The Crees gave the Vermont electrical companies the Goodman Group's analysis of Vermont's energy needs and options. We spent a lot of money and time, as well as providing testimony. The Crees looked at all the issues. We showed them to the companies but they decided to sign, regardless of the Cree opinion and expert analysis. We gave them the cultural and environmental ramifications of their decision upon the Cree Nation and the land. We also gave them the economic analysis. Now it's seven years later and they're reaping what they sowed."

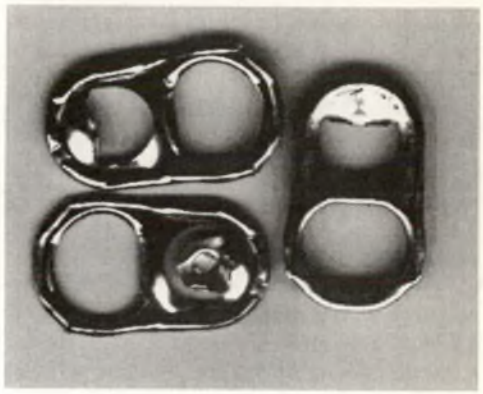
Namagoose went on to say that the Quebec government is in a similar boat. He said that if Hydro-Quebec built Great Whale at a cost of $13 billion, they would have no market for the electricity. This means that the interest would about $1.5 billion. The consequences would have been serious for Quebec and Hydro-Quebec according to Namagoose. The utility would be incurring huge losses and as a result probably almost bankrupt. Without the current skimming off profits from Hydro-Quebec, Premier Bouchard wouldn't have been able to start cleaning up Quebec's fiscal mess. "This is the Crees gift to Quebec's society," said Namagoose.

Hydro-Quebec's spokesperson, Steve Flanagan, said that he was unwilling to comment on the Grand Council's statements at this time but pointed out that Hydro-Quebec has three criteria in determining whether or not to go ahead with a project. "First it must be economically sound. For Hydro-Quebec, that means less than three cents a kilowatt hour to create it. Secondly the proposed project must be acceptable environmentally stated Flanagan. The third and most important component according to Flanagan is community acceptance. "We've talked with some Cree leaders. We had some talks with the GCCQ on what we want to do with Great Whale or the Rupert rivers. They are aware if they don't want the projects we will go away." Said Flanagan.

Flanagan said that the Hydro-Quebec relationship with Vermont is business as usual. "We have a good relationship with them" said Flanagan. He pointed out that in the past Hydro and Vermont have had agreements to reduce the bills. "We've always listened to what they had to say. If they have to increase rates because we have to increase rates, it's business, that's all" said Flanagan. He added that the door is always open at Hydro-Quebec to discussion options.

THERE'S GOLD IN THEM THAR TABS

By Ernest Webb



There are legends, those are the ones you hear in a darkened tent masterfully told to a rapt audience.

Then there are urban legends, those are usually told as stories to unsuspecting people about something which may or may not be true, but it could be. Usually it involves a friend of a friend of a friend. Generally they are untrue.

One such story making the rounds in the James Bay territory is the aluminum pull tab story. Those are the ones on the pop can openings. Though the legend isn't a new one, it is new to the north. It has all the local flavours to give it a ring of truth. *A Waskaganish man cashed in his tabs for $5000, You just take them to the (Name of store) in Val d'Or.* The tab story has been around for some time with different variations for each region or story teller. Send them in to an organisation so they can trade them in for time on a dialysis machine or something like that.

The version that is going around now is the tabs can be cashed in at a Val d'Or depanneur or store for 15 cents each or 30 cents if the tab is intact. Some say that they are worth $1.50 and that Michael Jackson is involved.

Sadly, Michael is not involved. They are not worth 15 cents or $1.50. I called up Super Marche Pelletier where the Waskaganish man supposedly cashed in a Ziploc bag of tabs for $2000 or $5000. I Asked whether they cash in tabs, Jacques Pelletier said that they "never have cashed them in and that they take cans at 5 cents each." I also called up Guay Metal in Rouyn where they supposedly cash in a two litre plastic pop bottle full of tabs for $200. I asked Mr. Guay if they cash those tabs in. He said, yes they take **"all aluminum at 40 cents per pound."** Reynolds Aluminum also has to deal with the issue on a regular basis they urge people to bring in the whole can for recycling. So all the would be tab tycoons should keep the whole can and cash it in for the 5 cents. It may not be as much as $5000, but it makes good sense for the environment and you won't feel like a fool.

Mistissini Sports & Recreation

Cree Nation of Mistissini, Quebec

On behalf of the Mistissini Sports & Recreation Department and the Organizing Committee, it is our pleasure to officially invite you to participate in:

Mistissini's 3rd Invitational Basketball Tournament October 9, 10, 11 & 12, 1997

We will be giving away over $20,000.00 in prize money and awards to six different categories. It will be disbursed as follows:

CATEGORIES	TEAMS	INSCRIPTION FEE	CHAMPIONS	FINALISTS
Men's Class "A"	(8)	$600.00	$4,000.00	$1,500.00
Men's Class "B"	(8)	$500.00	$3,000.00	$1,500.00
Recreational "C"	(8)	$400.00	$2,500.00	$1,000.00
Women	(8)	$400.00	$2,500.00	$1,000.00
Mini Boy's (12 & under)	(8)	$300.00	$1,500.00	$500.00
Mini Girl's (12 & under)	(8)	$300.00	$1,500.00	$500.00

**All prize amounts are estimates. The amounts are subject to change depending on the number of teams that register. The first teams to register and pay the registration fees will be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS. All other teams will be placed on stand-by.*

****ALL TEAMS MUST SEND THEIR INSCRIPTION FEE IN FULL BEFORE THE DEADLINE DATE!**

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 03, 1997

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Dates, fees and prize money have been changed!!

For more information contact Jean-Baptiste Loon, Robie Petawabano or Anthony Macleod at the Recreation Office (418) 923-3461.

Repossessing Montreal's Old Port

By Will Nicholls

This year was the 16th annual Montreal Friendship center's Pow Wow. "Is it possible to repossess land through celebration? We believe it is!" started off the Pow Wow program. This seemed to be the theme of the many people who came out to enjoy the festivities.

This year the location was set in old Montreal with indoor and outdoor activities. On hand was a Abenaki storyteller named Jesse Bruchac to entertain the children. Other features included Mohawk Marian Snow, who was on hand to help kids create multimedia masks and puppets, Odawa/Ojibway Celina Cada giving a hoopdancing demonstration and Mohawk Ryan Rice hosting Corn Husk doll workshops. Various native artists were on hand to demonstrate their work in basket weaving, carving and making traditional Iroquois cradle boards, making plains style moccasins and how to sculpt stone. A little bit of everything to interest the artist in all of us.

As well the rest of the things that make a Pow Wow what it is. People gathering in joy, artisans and traders selling, drumming and dancing as well as traditional foods. This years favorite was the rabbit stew. I had a second helping.

A problem one unfortunate drumming group encountered was the Canadian/U.S. border. They were slapped with a $450 entry fee. Officials at the border said that they were performing in Canada for money so they had to pay. The Wintegok Singers were shocked. They told the Canada Customs people that they were practicing their religious beliefs when they sang and the only money they would receive is an honorarium. The honorarium was to cover gas and food costs. The border patrol was adamant on this. Phone calls to Immigration Canada met with denial of responsibility. Daniel Bordeleau, Information Officer said that they have no forms like CR#2557. Canada Customs said that it wasn't a matter of religious practices but all groups with musical instruments are usually required to leave a deposit to ensure that they do not sell their instruments while in Canada. These "import deposits" are returned within a few weeks after proof that the musicians and their instruments returned intact to the U.S.

John Bosley, of the Wintegok Singers said that he was disappointed and outraged that Canadian borders officials don't honor native religious practices. One of the members of the Wintegok Singers paid the Canadian entry fee and they joined in the drumming along with other drum groups. Other groups included the White Tail Singers (Ojibway/Cree from North Bay, Ontario), The Little Turtles (Algonquin from Kitegan, Quebec), Rice Lake Singers (Ojibway/Cree from Peterbourough, Ontario) and the host drum was Masko Pirecic (Attikimek from Weymontachie, Quebec). This latest practice of Canada Customs seems to be a step back to the days in 1921 when Indian Affairs Deputy Superintendent General Duncan C. Scott wanted everyone to make sure that Indians didn't over-indulge in dancing. He said that Native dances should be suppressed. It also was suggested that Indians be prevented from leaving their reserves to attend fairs, exhibitions, etc. It is nice to see that Canada still continues his requests to this day.

From James Bay came Dianne Reid, who joined Dan Commanda (Ojibway) as the two Masters of Ceremonies. Head dancers were Gene Blackbird (Saulteaux/Cree) and Vicki Montour (Mohawk).

All in all the friendship center showed an international smorgasbord of native talent.

Working for a Cree future

The Grand Council of the Crees/The Cree Regional Authority

The Grand Council of the Crees is the political arm and voice of the Cree Nation. It represents the Cree Nation and is mandated to protect and advance our rights and interests at the regional, national and international levels. The council board is made up of Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, Deputy Grand Chief Violet Pachanos, the chiefs from each of the nine communities plus one other designated person from each community.

At the federal level, the Grand Council has to oversee that Ottawa carries out its fiduciary, legal, and political obligations including those stipulated under the terms of the JBNQA, as this agreement is constitutionally entrenched and Ottawa is legally bound to enforce and implement it. The Grand Council also oversees other international agreements, to which Canada is a signatory, that affect Aboriginal Nations, directly or indirectly.

At the regional or provincial level the Grand Council deals with the Quebec government and other government agencies that are under the jurisdiction of the provincial government, such as Hydro-Quebec. Other areas that it must deal with are development, exploitation and extraction of natural resources. These areas are claimed by the provincial government and have a large impact on the Cree Nation as well as other First Nations within Quebec. The Grand Council also has to ensure that the government of Quebec, Hydro-Quebec and other agencies live up to their obligations under the constitution of Canada and under the constitution of Canada and under the JBNQA and the other complimentary agreements.

The Grand Council is working with other First Nations and the provincial and federal governments to find just and equitable solutions to the many problems confronting First Nations not only in North America but around the world.

The Cree Nation is also the first aboriginal Nation to be grant non-governmental organization status at the United Nations. At the international level Cree Ambassador Ted Moses sees that the Cree Nation continues to play a pivotal role in the promotion and protection of human and indigenous rights.

The Cree Regional Authority is the Administrative arm of the Cree Nation and was created through the JBNQA. The board of directors consists of the Grand Chief, the Deputy Grand Chief, the nine chiefs and other elected persons from the nine communities.

Its objective is to provide support services to the nine communities, at the regional and local levels. The head office is in Nemaska and there are two other offices in Montreal and Ottawa. These offices make access easier to the governments, their various departments and administrators.

The Cree/Naskapi Act bestows upon the Cree a legislative foundation to run and to have a greater control of their own affairs. The principles of local government (section 9) is also an integral component of the JBNQA. Since these were enacted in the Canadian Parliament, they are considered constitutional law and are an integral part of the Constitution of Canada. Since there can be no unilateral revisions, it must have the consent and approval of Parliament and the Cree Nation.

The Cree Regional Authority has many responsibilities such as assisting in community services (i.e. Policing and community operations and maintenance funding negotiations), Traditional Pursuits Agency as well as administering land use, economic development and such mandates as it receives from the Cree communities and Annual General Assemblies from time to time.

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Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)

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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRIE

Paid advertisement

Just a thought..

Crees are constantly thinking of ways to improve life for their fellow human beings, it's true. Here's an excellent civil engineering idea that came to us from Bertie Wapachee of Nemaska. While sitting having supper on a recent visit to Montreal, he drew this diagram to describe his Cluster Improvement Idea.

Right now, the roads are inside the clusters. What Bertie suggests is building the road around the cluster's perimeter.

The way things are now, our kids have to dodge traffic. Mothers are constantly worried about their kids' whereabouts, when they know people are out in the community drinking and possibly driving. They worry when they see a truck zooming by.

Now in the clusters, you have to look out at other peoples' dusty and rusty trucks and cars. There is no common place to gather.

If the road were built around the outside of the cluster, you could turn the centre into a play area for kids. Put up meejewaps, picnic tables, have barbeques, a little skating rink in winter.

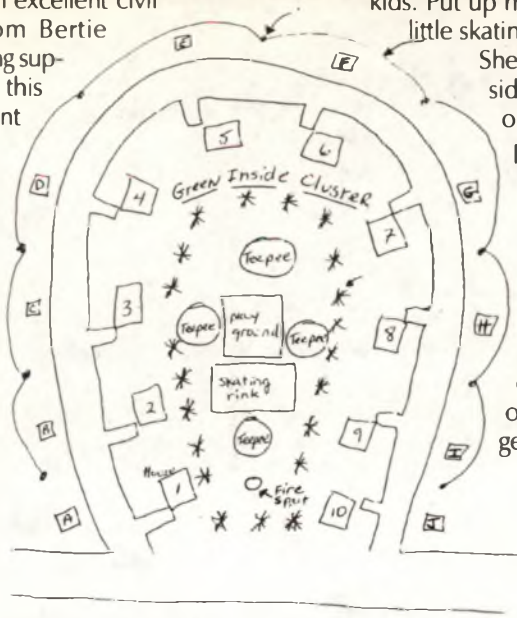
Sheds could be put on the other side of the outside road - to keep peoples' stuff (i.e. junk etc) out of the centre of the cluster. Cars would be parked, out of sight and out of mind, behind the houses too - not in the cluster.

"Right now," said Bertie. "We look at each others' trucks and skidoos. Who has what. "

So with the Wapachee Improved Cluster Idea (WICI for short), instead of looking at each others' material posessions and coveting our neighbor's asses, so to speak, we could be looking out, instead, for each others'children, family and cooking food together.

A cluster like this one would be family-oriented, safe, fun and relaxing for all ages.

If you have any good ideas you want to share - send them in.



21st Century Cluster - Idea #1Houses 1-10. Sheds A-J. Trees should be poplar or Spruce, which allow grass to grow.

AVIS/NOTICE

PRENEZ AVIS que la compagnie Les **Amusements Soleil Levant Inc.**, ayant son siège social à Eastmain, demandera à l'inspecteur général des institutions financières la permission de se dissoudre. L'inspecteur général des institutions financières fixe la date à compter de laquelle la dissolution de **Les Amusements Soleil Levant Inc.** entre en vigueur.

TAKE NOTICE that **Sunrise Amusement Inc.,** a company with its head office in Eastmain, will file a request with *l'inspecteur général des institutions financières* for permission to be dissolved.The dissolution of **Sunrise Amusement Inc.** will take effect on the date set by *l'inspecteur général des institutions financières.*

Renseignements/Information: (819) 977-0355

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Between Friends (with Deantha & Nian)

For all you women out there struggling to eat healthier, live healthier, BE healthier - post this on your fridge or cupboard door to refer to in times of temptation. Be Strong!

Pass it on... "A minute on the lips - a lifetime on the hips!"

Instead of:
☹a jumbo bag of Cheetos
☹a huge chunk of chocolate cake
☹chocolate covered raisins or nuts
☹a box of Crunch 'n Munch caramel nut coated popcorn
☹Rocky Road peanut butter
☹marshmellow ripple ice cream
☹deep fried home fries
☹a handful of Chips Ahoy or Pop Tarts
☹glazed cinnamon roll
☹Count Chocula, Frosted Flakes, Lucky
☹Charms cereals
☹an all-dressed baked potato (butter, sour cream, bacon, cheese)

Snack on THIS:
☺low-fat baked Lays nachos with melted cheese
☺2 or 3 of those adorable Hershey's Kisses go for the yoghurt covered kind
☺air-popped popcorn or Light microwave popcorn
☺try fruit flavoured frozen yogurt
☺frozen no-cholesteral fries baked in the oven
☺why not make a homemade fruit salad with a dollup of low-fat Cool Whip
☺toasted raisin bread
☺Special K dressed up with blueberries, Quaker Harvest Crunch, Bran Flakes
☺a baked potato with salsa

Think about it...
The gang you hang with may not be supporting your choice to lead a healthier lifestyle, especially when all you do revolves around food. Instead of chowing down on chicken wings, beer, and dishing out the latest gossip, plan the time you spend together more wisely. You can gab and burn flab together - take a long walk, organize a just for fun sports team, whatever suits your personality and preferences. By the way... Having sex (If you're active) is a great way to get your heart pumping (as if you just ran up and down two flights of stairs), relieve stress AND feel great about yourself and your loved one!

The Twilight Zone
Your "Horrorscope"

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18) What are you smiling about? Summer is over and Fall sucks! What's the point of getting out of bed you say? Well maybe because it's colder between your bed-sheets than October rain. Any good news for you...Sorry, try again. Life is a female dog. Get with it already.

Pisces (Feb 19-March 20) Nothing you can do about it. Every day is a bad hair day for you. Not even Reggie Tomatuk (voted James Bay's Best Hairdresser) can help you now. Get with the new age. Enjoy the mess look. Never know, you just might attract that weirdo you've been eyeing.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Still wondering what that funny smell is? Try a new deodorant. Preferably one strong enough for a man and made for a man. If you're a guy, *Secret* is not the answer. Those babes you repelled earlier will fall at your feet. Keep 'em clean and odor free (your feet that is).

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Become the essence of your sign. Go ahead and bully everyone around you. The winds of change are upon us. Extreme measures must be taken in your closet (no, not disclosure). Your clothing needs color. Slip into a pair of hot neon plaid pants. Just in time for Halloween.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) You know what might be fun to do right now? Start writing with your left hand. It will give everyone who reads your writing a headache. For this, you could pass for a doctor. For all you Gemini's who are already lefties: stick to the status quo, you'll achieve the same results.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) What's the difference between you and a terrorist? We can negotiate with a terrorist! That's right, you're not in the mood to be messed with. Growl when people come near you. Smile and they'll wonder what you are on. Stay true to your bitchy self, especially if you're a guy.

Leo (July 23-Aug 22) Boring! This is your key word for this period. Say it every time someone seems too happy. If they start to dump on you because of this: tell them they sound like those adults in "Charlie Brown". If they still pester you: give them the loser sign and let 'em figure it out.

Virgo (Aug 23-Sept 22) Whatever...Not surprising you screwed-up yet again. Any chance for redemption? Well, you could be the star at an upcoming Halloween bash. So hurry-up and get a knock-out costume (no, not your birthday suit). If you procrastinate, people will start to compliment on the mask you are not wearing.

Libra (Sept 23-Oct 22) Vivre la liberte! No, don't get excited. We are not talking about sovereignty here. Just trying to excite you. Since an enema sounds better than sex these days. But you never know the doc performing the procedure might be cute and single!

Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21) Even when you are feeling happy, deep down you have this incredible urge to rip out someone's guts and let them watch! A Doberman is much easier to converse with than you are these days. But hey, you are better equipped at tearing off the leash than the Doberman.

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21) Consult a doctor about that drooling problem. Your mate isn't kidding about their fear of drowning in your bed. Just for fun: tell people you have rabies. Ever seen anyone hit Mach 1 on foot? Now is your chance. Try wearing a doggie-bag around your neck.

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19) You're feeling like Mrs. Potato Head. You just can't figure out where certain items are suppose to go. Like the other day, when you put your bra on backwards and it actually fit better! That must have been rough on you guys too huh? It is not just a girl prob anymore. **By Thelma & Louise**

CHISASIBI 8TH ANNUAL INVITATIONAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

On behalf of the Chisasibi Sports and Recreation Association,
we are pleased to invite all interested teams
to our 8th Annual Invitational Volleyball Tournament.

DATES: November 6, 7, 8 & 9, 1997
PLACE: James Bay Eeyou School Gymnasium, Chisasibi, Quebec
ENTRY FEE: $500 Per Team (Competitive Men and Women)
$250 Per Team (Recreational Men and Women)
PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO:
Chisasibi Sports and Recreation Association
DEADLINE TO REGISTER: October 28, 1997

There will be a refundable Defaultation Fee of $100.00 imposed on the participating teams.

CASH PRIZES	
Competitive Champions:	$3,000.00 + Plaque
Competitive Finalists:	$1,500.00 + Plaque
Competitive Consolation:	$500.00
Recreational Champions:	$1,500.00 + Plaque
Recreational Finalists:	$750.00 + Plaque
Recreational Consolation:	$250.00

** Prizes are subject to change due to number of teams registered*

*The schedule will be ready Tuesday, November 4th, 1997.
The deadline for teams to inform
the Recreation Department of their time
of arrival is Monday, November 3rd before 3:00 p.m.
The Recreation Department will not make any changes in the schedule.
There will be a $100.00 penalty fee charged to the team
requesting a schedule change, payable before their first game.*

*We will be enforcing this rule because when a team requests changes to be made, it is an inconvenience to the other teams and to the Recreation Department.
So please respect this rule, in the spirit of sportsmanship and friendship. For more information please contact John Pash or Stella M. Bearskin at (819) 855-2878.
Thank you and we look forward to seeing you in November!*

continued from page 6

presentations to them all on the same day. Our meetings in the village were, as Mr. Watts points out, low-key, extremely well-received, and covered both the relocation project and possible opportunities in Voisey Bay.

Far from there being any concerns about our presentation, the feedback was positive and this let to serious talks about jont ventures for both projects. These talks are continuing to this day.

- It would have been helpful if you had included in your article the information I gave you during our interview. There will be no work in which Cree Construction and such a joint venture will not be needed until the summer of 1998. So much for the contracts that have been lost!!!

- Chief Diamond was asked to address the community at their invitation to deal with the perils of negotiating with the Government. He gave a review of the Cree experience and it is ironic that all of the dangers that he warned about—restricted funding, Government attempts to control the project from the Mushuau Innu people and continual delays—have come to pass.

- Chief Katie Rich has devoted her life to leading her people in times of great danger and the impression that you leave your readers with in the article is a disgrace to a great Indian leader. We have always acted honourably and our relations have always been in mutual good faith.

- Federal officials have tried every trick in the book to try to destroy her and you should not allow yourself and your publication to be used in the manner.

- Of great concern to us as well is the description of the meetings which took place in Ottawa.

We were summoned by Mr. Brad Morse—not vice verse—and met him in his office. There were four people present.

If your article indeed reflects accurately the comments by Mr. Morse, they are incorrect. We received a lecture about the proposed agreement, but as we noted, this was not particularly relevent to us as we would have had to abide by whatever was negotiated. Our relations with the Davis Inlet people had always been subject to this.

However, as Mr. Morse spoke, we saw another concern for the Mushuau Innu people. He was telling us that the agreement would be implemented by the Department of Public Works or otherwise and not the Mushuau Innu people. We realized another agenda was being followed to suit the plans of federal officials.

We wrote to the Minister R. Irwin asking for an explanation about the statements of his officials as well as documents they circulated, and as of today we have never received a reply!

Our Board of Directors was kept fully aware of this and the concerns we had for the community, and the actions of certain federal officials responsible for the Davis Inlet file.

We feel that federal officials did not want a Cree Construction/Mushuau Innu joint venture because we would have insisted that the Relocation Agreement be honoured. There was an attempt to create a wedge between us and our potential Native partner. The Cree connection started long before Cree Construction arrived on the scene. Perhaps the earlier involvement of the Grand Council of the Crees of Quebec and our Grand Chief in strongly supporting the Mushuau Innu people was not appreciated by Canada. That role was critical in allowing this Native group to ensure their rights were respected.

By your portrayal of our actions in such a negative way, not including all the facts, and looking at sensationalism and not true journalism, we must now go back and try ever harder to ensure that our relations with the Mushuau Innu are intact. In fact, this applies to all of our clientele.

The Cree people and more particularly, our Board of Directors, have given clear directions on the level of high integrity and honour that we must maintain and we have done so. The article is an insult to us and is not tolerable.

I have written this letter as a way of ensuring that there is public awareness of what we have done and how we act on behalf of the Cree people. Anything less than the honest truth would not be acceptable.

Steven Bearskin
President
The Cree Construction and Development Company Ltd.

Editor's Note: We would like to thank Steven Bearskin for his letter on this very serious issue. In the course of preparing the article, we made pains to include only information that we could substantiate and confirm with several sources.

The letter from Mr. Bearskin says we misquoted Chief Katie Rich and took her out of context. He says her remarks were made "before she had ever met us and was never meant to be directed at us." This is incorrect. For the record, the interview was recorded on tape. We asked Chief Rich: "Did people in the community have a bad impression afterwards about the visit?" She replied: "No, I don't think so. People talk about why is everybody coming to see Davis. They didn't bother with us a few years ago, and now that we have this money everybody wants to be our friend. Which I can understand because they're just like vultures." We then asked her: "Was Cree Construction in it just for the money?" She said: "Yes, I think so."

The interview was done this summer—after Katie Rich met with Mr. Bearskin and Chief Diamond in Mushuau, not before.

Other Innu officials and observers of the events told us there was indeed a bad impression of the visit by Cree Construction and the other businessmen. Whether or not there is any truth to the bribe allegations, which are still under investigation by the RCMP, there is no denying that Cree Construction's reputation has suffered. Even Mr. Bearskin told

us in an interview that he had heard Cree Construction's name had been "dragged through the mud" in Mushuau.

We felt that reporting all this in The Nation *was part of our responsibility as a newspaper. It was not meant as an insult to anyone, least of all to the Cree people.*

The truth has to be told

Letter to *The Nation*:

In *The Nation*, Volume 4, No. 20, August 29, 1997, the GCCQ/CRA's advertisement of the resolution passed, "The People Have Spoken," they say that they will support the people of Great Whale in their fight to save any damming or diversion of the Great Whale River. I agree with this in principle. But we need to tell the truth to our own people, especially the Elders, the Children and the Youth. The truth has not been told about what happened in the early '70s, where the Cree ceded the land to the governments.

But this is not necessarily the law in our minds. We have to work together to correct the mistakes that were made by others. We do not believe that we ceded away the land, so let us fight to change the agreement where we are not quoted in writing as signatories of an agreement that we did not agree upon. I know that it is a complex document, but we did cede away land, according to the laws of Canada and Quebec. Ever if "under duress," they do not care.

When I mention this to some of the older men, Elders, they do not know this at all. They think that we only gave away the piece of land where the reservoirs are situated, and the dam areas. I feel sorry for these people when they talk of intruders on their territories, but legally, anybody can set up shop on any traditional Cree land. I am sorry to say, but that is the truth.

We are a Nation in Crisis. We need to heal the wounds that have been inflicted on us by the outside cultures. We need to recognize who we are. We need help to rebuild our Cultures and Communities. We need a future that we can look forward to. We need understanding from our neighbours. We need to have a foundation of trust and understanding from the people we seem to be fighting against every day. We need to have the will to live, to have self-understanding so our communities will grow spiritually strong. We need economies that will sustain our communities. We need growth that is based on sustainability, rather than destruction. We need leaders who care. We need a Nation that is strong for the future. All of the above is not impossible, but only realistic, if we have the right attitude and if we are willing to work at it. If we cannot do it, then we are no longer a Nation, we are just individuals who are just looking out for themselves. Let's Grow, Let's Grow together.

C.H. in Chisasibi

Stimulating and humourous

Letter to *The Nation*:

I am interested in subscribing to *The Nation* since I am in Montreal now and can not get a copy sent to me from Waswanipi. I am more than willing to pay the $65 a year for the individual subscription.

I can not live without being aware of what is currently going on.

Pass on the message to Will Nicholls that I find his journalism to be very intellectually stimulating. Also Neil Diamond's piece in the Aug. 29, 1997 issue was humourous and attention-grabbing.

Donna Marie Lambert

Tree Dream

BY MARGARET ORR

I cut the tree for firewood
It fell deep into the snow.
Branches protruding, I pulled it out.
Hacking off the branches,
I imagined what it would be like
To be a tree.
I threw myself into the powdery snow.
As I hit, the snow puffed up beside me.
I looked at the sky,
And the trees towering above me.
Feeling alone and one with nature,
I spoke;
Here I lie,
My branches stripped from me,
Forgotten.
Snow fell,
Like a blanket, covered me.
Rabbits hop over me.
Their steps amplified under the snow.
Spring comes.
Snow melt.
My bark is wet, and in the heat,
Starts to rot.
Bugs awake.
They burrow in my rotting bark.
The seasons change.
I rot some more,
Feeding the earth.
New trees grow in my place.
I feed the ground.
Forgotten by a woman,
Who stripped me of my branches.

ROY

I would like to dedicate this poem to my loving husband Roy Stephen Stewart. Roy, this poem is specially for you.

R's
Love is like River
That never stops flowing
Love is like Rain
That it makes you cry at times
Love is like Rainbow
That it makes beautiful colours
Love is Radiant
it has lightness with brightness and kindness

O's
Love is an Oath
Declaration of pledge and promise
Love is an Obscure
hard to understand at times
Love is One
That we become one flesh
Love is Origin
The beginning of the existence of our togetherness

Y's
Love is Yearn
To desire one another earnestly
Love is Young
That is to keep us from aging
Love is Yours
That is to be offered, yours to offer
Love is You
Because you're the only one.

With all my love Jennifer, Happy Birthday!
(Note: This poem was sent in a few weeks ago, so we might have missed the birthday. Sorry!)

CLASSIFIEDS

that we will always carry into our lives and hearts. Thank you for being such a good father. Happy anniversary (September 20) and we love you so much. Love always, your wife Edith and especially from your son Evander Gunner.

On September 12, 1997 we would like to congratulate Walter Hughboy for 19 years as chief of Wemindji. Congratulations from W.L.H. and family.

Happy 18th wedding anniversary goes out to very special parents Linda and William Moar. Mom...dad...I want you to know that even though I'm not your real daughter I'll still love you both forever and I know that you really care about me. Love always, Natacha Moar.

Happy 8th anniversary to Peggy and Samson Matches on September 29 in Nemaska. Have a long and happy life together. From Edith, Evander and Gordon (mist) P.S. Kisses to all the kids.

Happy belated anniversary to Lillian and Howard Blueboy in Waskaganish who celebrated their anniversary on October 5th, 1997. Wishing you all the best in the many more years to come. From your buddy Wayne in Nemaska.

I would like to wish a happy 2nd wedding anniversary to my brother Roderick and his wife Priscilla on October 6, 95. Wishing you all the best and many more years to come. From Caroline. (Chisasibi)

Happy 1st anniversary to Barry and Rebecca Bearskin on October 4 in Chisasibi. May your love grow stronger everyday. Take care of your daughter Juanitash. From Edith, Evander and Gordon (Mist.) P.S. When will Juanita have a brother or a sister?

104-GRADUATIONS!

Congratulations to Calvin Pepabano on his graduation from Sec. V. I wish you luck in your future and whatever goal you have set for yourself. Thank you for inviting me! From your aunt, Lillian Rabbitskin.

Congratulations to our friend S.B. Cooper for completing her early childhood course in Ouje-Bougoumou on September 6, 1997. We wish you the best in the years to come. Keep up the good work my friend. Love in friendship, Lorrainne and Claude.

On June 20, 1997 our sister/ daughter Alexandra attained her long awaited Secondary V diploma. You did it, Jeets! You had the courage to dream and the mind to succeed! Good luck in college in January. We will be keeping a close watch on you! We "foo foo!" xoxoxoxox. From mom (Myrna), Dad (David), your sister Tanya (Kipawa), your sister Isabelle and brother David Jr. (Wemindji)

We would like to congratulate our mom Agnes Hughboy who graduated from Native early Childhood Education Training on September 5, 1997. What can we say. We are very proud of you mom for achieving your goal, not giving up on the many obstacles you met through your training, your ups and downs. We knew it was hard but you did it. You proved that it was possible to overcome obstacles to do well even when the odds are against you. Remembering what you used to tell us, if you put your minds into what you want to achieve, you can do it. Never give up on your dreams and whatever you want in life you each can do it. You know mom, you had it in you to succeed. Congratulations again on your graduation. We love you and are proud of you mom. Love always, sons, Anthony and Darryl Hughboy.

300-PERSONALS

Hi to my friends Joni Blacksmith and Melissa Gull in Waswanipi. Hope to see you girls again sometime. Take care of yourselves and don't party too much. From your friend in Waskaganish.

Hi to our friends Mary Sealhunter, Samantha Sealhunter, Agnes Napash and especially your cousin Lena Pash in Chisasibi. How are you girls doing? We hope our friendship will never end even though we're miles away from each other. Hope to see you girls soon. From two of your friends in Waskaganish. (Guess Who.)...

I would like to say hello to someone I still love. I think about him everyday and I really miss everything about him. I wish I could hold you once again. Love always, ????? ?????? (Waskaganish)

I would like to say hi to my Mexican buddies. Hey gals wait for me I'm still on number two. Please let me catch up with you gals. Please at least wait or let me skip number two, pretty please. What number are you gals on. I hope it's not 15 or 16. next time I'll try to be on time. I can't wait to see you. but I don't know when that will be maybe next month or next year!! Just kidding till then my Mexican buddies. From your Mexican buddy up north.

I would like to say to my friend Celina Wapachee in Hull. How are you? Me, I'm just doing great. Good luck in college. Friends 4-ever always, Natacha Moar. P.S. Take care of yourself. C Ya!!

To someone in Montreal who left on September 15, 1997. Just wanted him to know that it's not the same without him. We don't have anyone to talk to anymore and to tell the juicy gossip too. We keep on trying to call your number here in Chisasibi but we keep forgetting that you're not here. We'll be missing your soft voice, sweet like a chic-a-cherry cola and we hope you can achieve your dream. Love in friendship, you know us, Beavis and Butthead (Chisasibi) P.S. Call us and give us your address and we can write to you.

I just want to say hello to my family in Waskaganish. Hey guys, what up. I hope you're all doing okay. I miss you guys a lot and I am very anxious to go home but I will finish school first. I love you all and god bless you. By the way, happy 15th belated birthday to my sister Cynthia on August 20. Happy birthday Cynthia! With love, Mary Jane. (North Bay, Ontario.)

This message is for the Princess of the Dawn of North Bay. You know who you are! I just wanted to know how you are doing and this is the only way I know how to reach you. So, how's it been since you've been back to your hometown? I myself have been quite bored but I'm trying to keep myself busy. I think the reason for my being bored is because I simply had too much fun this summer. How about you? Well, like I said, I just wanted to say hi and I hope to hear from you soon. Your friend in Ottawa. Call me at 613.723.6312, A.S.A.P.

COMING UP IN

The Nation

Interview with Elder Isaac Dixon

3rd Annual Youth essay Contest

Cree@Large!!

"Between Friends" make-over

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CLASSIFIEDS

always, Tanya C. Waswanipi.

On September 27th we'd like to wish a happy 19th birthday to our wonderful brother/son Patrick Cooper. Hope your day will be as special as you are, cause you deserve it! Many more to come and may God watch and keep you through your growing years. Happy birthday! We love you do much and take care of yourself, stay sober! Love always, your sisters and brothers. Tanya Cynthia, Elton John, Jonathan and mom and dad. Waswanipi. xoxoxoxoxox

---

To a special friend Kyla Grant you are very lucky to have such beautiful angels in your life. Have a wonderful birthday on September 24, 97. Take care. From friend always, Clara Gull.

I would like to wish a happy 6th birthday to my little brother Naman Moar from Nemaska on October 27, 1997. Wishing you happiness on your special day!! Good luck birthday boy. Happy birthday. Love always, your sister Natacha Moar (Nemaska, Quebec.)

Happy 22nd birthday to my one and only daughter Emily Wesley in Waswanipi. She celebrates her big day on September 29, 1997. I thank God everyday for you because God seen what I needed in my life so he decided to send you to brighten up my life. You are my friend and most of all my precious daughter. I love you and miss you very much. With all my love and life, mom in Moosonee , Ontario.

Wishing a happy 3rd birthday to our grandson Thomas on October 9. You are an inspiration to us each day. we love you. From Grandma Frances and grandpa David.

Happy belated birthday to Marissa Blueboy in Waskaganish who celebrated her birthday on October 5th, 1997. Wishing you all the best in the many more years to come. From your friend Wayne.

Wishing a happy belated birthday to Gary Clive Hester on September 16. Hope your wishes and dreams come true. You're very special to me and I will always be there for you. I love you so much and you mean the world to me because you're my only true and trusted friend I've got in the world because you understand my feelings and you're always there for me. Gary, I am glad you didn't even drink on your birthday. P.S. I love you and happy birthday! With all my love, Mary Jane (North Bay)

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my friend Darryl diamond on September 28. Hope you have a great day! From a friend always. God bless you. (waskaganish)

Wishing a happy 1st birthday to my sweet adorable nephew Barry Matthew on October 20. Happy birthday and many more to come. From Caroline.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our friend Valerie Pepabano in Val d'Or on September 24. We wish we could celebrate with you on your birthday. Just call us when you need a friend to talk to. And have a wonderful birthday and many more to come. From your friends always, M.B. and C.M. (Chisasibi)

I would like to wish a happy birthday to two of my friends in Eastmain, Jennifer Miapo and Daisy B. Cheezo on October 4, 1997. have a wonderful day and I hope your dreams and wishes come true as you celebrate your special day. Happy birthday and many more wonderful birthdays coming your way. With love in friendship.

I would like to wish a happy belated birthday to my sister. She celebrated her birthday on September 22, 1997. The Mrs. Brad Pitt wannabe. I feel so sorry y for you my sister, the only thing I can say is, in your dreams sis. he's already married and maybe he has kids or not maybe in the future or maybe I'm wrong, maybe someday your dreams can come true. Not. Once again happy belated birthday. It's better late than never. Maybe next year I'll be on time. With love in friendship, your sister. P.S. My birthday is coming up soon. Don't forget to wish me happy birthday. Just kidding. Don't remind me. I know they say it's just a number and it's not to me.

I would like to wish a happy 18th birthday to my brother Alvin on October 4, 1997. Hope you enjoy your b-day. From your sister Janice (Waskaganish.) P.S. Don't party too much!!

Wishing a happy birthday to Alvin Moar who will turn 18 years old on October 4, 1997. Have a great birthday and don't party too or don't party at all!!! Guess who. From your drinking buddy. (Waskaganish)

My friend Karen Hester who is in Waskaganish. I wouldn't forget your birthday (October 18) even tho we're far apart and we don't see each other as often I'm always going to be your number one buddy. I wanna take this time to wish you a happy birthday and many more to come and havr a blast! Love in friendship, your cousin and always be your #1 buddy. edith Gunner in Mistissini. P.S. See you someday somewhere.

Happy birthday to my sister Jo-Anne who will be celebrating her 20th birthday on October 6, 1997. Hope you have a wonderful b-day. With love, your sis Janice S. Moar. Waskaganish, Que.

Sing along, happy birthday to me, happy birthday to me, happy birthday to me, happy birthday to, and meny moooore, I hope. My birthday is on September 18, 1997. And I'll celebrate alone with a broken heart. Wishing someone would celebrate with me. Just wanted to wish myself a happy 18th birthday. What the hek!

Happy belated birthday to our dad Paul Lameboy in Chisasibi on September 18th. We love you so much and miss you, dad. Take care of yourself. With much love from your children, Shawna, Paulette, Darren and Paulina.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my friend Steven P. on September 29 and a happy anniversary to my friend Nancy and Billy Menarick on September 15, 1997. From Jennifer and the kids.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

Happy 13th anniversary to a lovely couple, our parents Jimmy and Emma Jacob on September 28th. We love you both very much. Thanks for everything! Your daughter Jamie, Vanessa, Becky, Marina and Annalisa.

Happy belated anniversary to my husband Gordon Gunner who's also a father to my son. This year is a very special year for us because together we celebrated our anniversary with our first son, Evender has brought so much joy into our lives. A love we never knew before, a love so strong

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100-BIRTHS

We would like to congratulate Iris and George Crowe on the birth of their baby boy Jordan Ryan Jackie Crowe, weight 7 lbs., 12 oz. Born on June 9, 1997 in Val d'Or. We wish you all the joy and happiness. Love always, your family in Chisasibi.

101-B-DAYS!!!

Je veux te souhaite une bonne fete a mon amie a Nemaska, ?????? J'apprecie de tout ce que tu as fais pour moi. Tu est une tres gentille amie que je jamais connaie. je l'aime de tout mon coeur. tu es ma meilleure amie! De ton amie, Cathy.

I, Nathan, would like to wish my daddy Allen a happy belated happy birthday. Me and mommy didn't forget, we thought about you all day long. I hope you had a good one! We love you and miss you very much and we hope to see you very soon. Oh daddy, I had a dream about you last night and I woke up crying, wish you were here! xxoxoxoxoxo.

This birthday wish goes out to a very sweet little girl named Brittany Visitor on September 26, 1997. Hope your day is full of fun and laughter like you so much deserve. Love you a whole bunch sweetie pie! Hugs and kisses from bama

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Birthday greetings going out to my sister Bianca Icebound on October 1st. Wishing you all the best as you celebrate your special day. P.S. You're not 18 yet, you know what that means, no Desmaraisville for you. Maybe next year. See you sis, Lorrainne and Claude, Spuds says hi! Happy birthday to you.

Happy belated birthday to two very special and beautiful girls, Shawna Lameboy (September 14) and Paulina Lameboy (on August 26th). With love from your cousins, Jamie, Vanessa, Becky, Marina and Annalisa.

To my little brother David James Jolly, happy 4th birthday on September 21. I'll send your gift by mail. With lots of love, your sister Lilybelle in North bay. P.S. Have fun in your first year of school!! Love you !!

Allo baby! Allo Richard! Happy belated 1st birthday to my chubby but cute and of course handsome nephew (September 04) I'm so sorry I couldn't celebrate your day with you. Miss you lots little guy! Love auntie Lilybelle.

Happy birthday to my brother Gary on October 12. Hope your day is as special as you are and happy as you deserve! Take care of yourself. C U in December! Love, sister Lilybelle.

Birthday wish gores out to a special young girl who's in Chisasibi to Sarah Jane Bearskin. Hope you have a wonderful time, you're someone I will never forget. Happy birthday on September 27 will be turning 6 years old. So have fun! Syndia in Nemaska and to Silas Blackned happy belated birthday on August 26 and never stop playing hockey.

Happy 3rd birthday to our cousin in Mistissini, Joel (Boy) Jimiken on September 28, 1997. Even though we fight sometimes it doesn't mean we don't love you. We miss you a lot. come and visit us soon we'll play hockey two on two. have fun on your birthday! Love, your cousins in Chisasibi Loubit, Lu Lush and Ericsh.

Belated birthday wishes going out to Lucie Lameboy on August 28th, Shawna on September 14, Paulina on august 26 and to Paul Lameboy on September 18th. Also to Raymond Hester on August 29 and Caroline Hester on September 21. With love from Jimmy and Emma.

Happy birthday to Brian (September 13) Lu Lush (September 26) Boy (September 28) and Sherry Ann (September 29) From everybody at 100 Watchio Rd. (Chisasibi)

A belated birthday wish going out to our special friend Cynthia Cooper on September 1st. Happy birthday and many more to come! Sorry we're late but at least we didn't forget your birthday. Anyways hope you had a great time on your birthday. From your friends Jessica D. and Melinda G. P.S. Hope to see you soon and take care of yourself.

Happy birthday to our cousin Lenora Moar on September 24th. Have fun Lenora, enjoy your day! With love, Jamie, Vanessa, Becky, marina and Annalisa Jacob.

Belated birthday wish going out to my niece Glenna Icebound (Glais Lee Glo Low) on September 8. Gee, you know, you've grown so fast you're almost a teenager. We wish you all the best in the years to come. P. S. Be a good girl, no sleeping over at your boyfriend's. See ya later alligator. Love always, auntie Lorrainne and Claude.

Happy 14th birthday to our youngest sister Cynthia Cooper on September 1st. We hope you'll have a great one on your birthday! We love you so much and take care. With love always, your sisters, brothers, Tanya, Patrick, Elton John and Jonathan Cooper. Waswanipi. xoxoxoxoxoxoxo

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Happy belated birthdays to my daughters Paulina Lameboy on August 26, Shawna Lameboy on September 14 and to Paul Lameboy on September 18. We love you all very much. From Mom Lucie, Paulette and Darren (Waskaganish.)

Birthday wishes going out to my friend Carly Kitchen on September 16th and Stacey Kitchen on September 19th. Hope you girls had a great time on your birthday! I wish you the best in life and have a wonderful day. Good luck in school! Take care of yourselves. Love in friendship, Tanya. Waswanipi.

Happy birthday to my friend Jessica Moore on September 27th from Waswanipi and Crystal Katapatuk on September 13th from Waskaganish. Hope you'll have a great one girls! Have a blast on your birthday. Don't party too much girls! Take care and good luck in life and school. Friend

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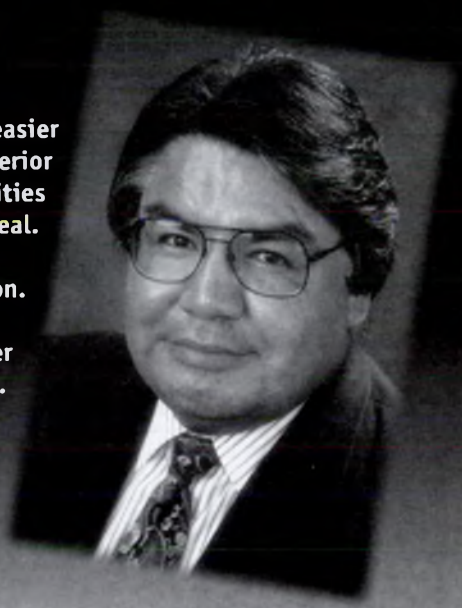

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